

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of October 4, 2005. Applicant appreciates the indication of the allowability of claims 4-6, 9 and 10.

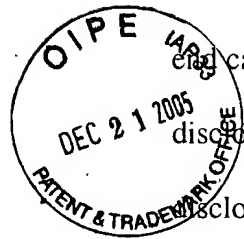
The drawings have been corrected to eliminate the informalities noted by the Examiner. Similarly, the specification has been amended to correct the noted informalities.

In response to the claim rejections, claims 1 and 2 have been canceled and replaced by claim 11 which essentially combines the limitations of claims 1 and 2, corrects the informalities in those claims noted by the Examiner, and better distinguishes from the cited art. Original claims 3-6 have been made dependent upon claim 11.

Claim 7 has been amended to better distinguish from the prior art, and claims 7-10 have been amended to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner.

Claim 11, which is being substituted for claims 1 and 2, essentially includes their limitations and further defines the connectors which join each knuckle to the elongated members (14 and 16). Each connector is defined as including a cylindrical splined part and a second part having a hole with internal splines, with the axis of the cylindrical part and the hole being coaxial with the central axis of its associated tube 14 and 16 and substantially normal to cylindrical pin 42. This relationship fully distinguishes from the cited patents to Cole and Warshawsky and is quite different than that shown in Figure 5 of Hathorn in where the cylindrical spline member 10 and the splined opening 24 extend parallel to the rotational axis of the axis that join them to the operating element 27.

The arrangement defined in claim 11 provides the tube 16 three degrees of freedom with respect to the tube 14: one by adjustment of the spline 34a with respect to the end cap 26; a second by rotation of the cylindrical spine member 34b with respect to the spline 29b in the other



cap; and the third, by rotation of the two knuckles about the pin 42. This adjustability is not disclosed by Cole, Warshawsky or Hathorn and joining them together, in the absence of the disclosure of the present application, would not achieve this adjustability.

Claim 7 has been similarly amended to distinguish from any reasonable combination of the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application are accordingly, respectfully solicited. Questions may be directed to Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone and facsimile numbers provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen M. Krass
Registration No. 18,277
Gifford, Krass, Groh, Sprinkle,
Anderson & Citkowski, P.C.
2701 Troy Center Drive, Suite 330
P.O. Box 7021
Troy, MI 48007-7021

Attorney for Applicant

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Jennifer Baranowski